



Military Occupational/Environmental Health and Medical Surveillance Subcommittee Update

**William Halperin, MD, MPH, DrPH
Chair**



Overview

- **Subcommittee Membership**
- **Subcommittee Charge**
- **Review of the Deployment Health Research Center (DHRC)**
- **Vote: DHB Recommendations on the DHRC**
- **Future Site Visits**
- **Questions posed by the Inspector General**
- **ASD(HA) Request for Review**



Subcommittee Membership

- **Dr. William Halperin, Chair**
- **Dr. Gary Carlson**
- **Dr. John Herbold**
- **Dr. Edward Kaplan***
- **Dr. Wayne Lednar**
- **Dr. James Lockey**
- **Dr. Russell Luepker***
- **Dr. Thomas Mason**
- **Dr. Michael Oxman***
- **Dr. Alan Russell**



Subcommittee Charge

- **September 17, 2002 request by Dr. Winkenwerder, the Assistant Secretary of Defense, Health Affairs (ASD(HA)), to:**
 - Meet with the DoD Centers for Deployment Health Research and Clinical Center Directors to receive mission briefs
 - Develop, in coordination with the Directors, an appropriate strategy to accomplish an ongoing program review and appointment of an AFEB Select Subcommittee (Military Occupational/Environmental Health and Medical Surveillance Subcommittee) to serve as a public health advisory board for the DoD Research and Clinical Centers for Deployment Health



Deployment Health Research Center Site Visit

- **Subcommittee Chair and DHB Executive Secretary conducted preliminary site visit to DHRC in San Diego in October 2009**
- **Report drafted following site visit, then reviewed by Subcommittee to prioritize issues**
- **Subcommittee conducted site visit to DHRC on May 11-12, 2010**
- **Met with DHRC staff and members of the Scientific Steering Advisory Committee (SSAC)**
- **Finalized the report**



DHRC Recommendations

- **The Board recommends the revision and restructuring of the Scientific Steering Advisory Committee (SSAC) into a Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) that is responsible for overseeing all activities at the Center for Deployment Health Research. The Board recommends that the SAC include senior leaders of the Active Duty and retired, officer and enlisted, military, regional and national subject matter experts, and DHB representatives. The Commanding Officer (CO), along with at least one senior leader from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), should serve as ex-officio members on the SAC due to the implications for veterans. Furthermore, appointments should be recommended by the DHB to the ASD(HA); the ASD(HA) should appoint the Committee and assign its responsibilities, as well as determine the appointment duration.**



DHRC Recommendations (cont)

- **The DHB recognizes that there is redundancy between the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) that is being recommended and the American Institute of Biological Sciences (AIBS). The AIBS is employed by the United States Army Medical Research and Materiel Command (USAMRMC) to review the Center of Deployment Health Research, amongst other organizations. The review by the AIBS appears redundant with the proposed SAC and does not fulfill vital roles that the Board recommends of the SAC. The Board recommends that the DoD consider opportunities to combine the indicated reviews into a single, more comprehensive assessment.**



DHRC Recommendations (cont)

- **The DHB recommends that there be coordination meetings between the three Centers for Deployment Health at least twice a year, coordinated by, and attended by the ASD(HA), or designee.**
- **When additional staff requirements are needed, strong consideration should be given to a national recruitment effort.**
- **In the future, we recommend that the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC), mentioned above, play a significant role in establishing research priorities. At that time it would be appropriate to assess whether the funding is adequate to meeting the research needs.**



DHRC Recommendations (cont)

- **Mandated studies require only Institutional Review Board (IRB) review. The Board recommends that in the future, research protocols should be reviewed and approved, at the very least, by the advisory committee.**
- **The Center for Deployment Health Research should explore the development of a program for recruiting graduate students or external faculty for months to year-long assignments.**
- **The DoD should explore the development of a military career path within the area of epidemiology.**



Future Site Visits

- **Begin review of Deployment Health Clinical Center (DHCC) at Walter Reed and the Armed Forces Health Surveillance Center at Aberdeen Proving Ground**
- **One day site visit to DHCC by Subcommittee Chair and DFO, tentatively scheduled for September**



Questions to the IG

- **On 25 June 2010, the Office of the Inspector General (IG) requested input and comments on questions posed by the IG regarding the Qarmat Ali water treatment plant in Iraq**



ASD(HA) Request

- **On 19 July 2010, the ASD(HA) requested the Review of the DoD Report on a Theater Air Monitoring Plan**
- **On 19 July 2010, the ASD(HA) requested the Review of the Armed Forces Health Surveillance Center’s “Epidemiological Studies of Health Outcomes among Troops Deployed to Burn Pit Sites”**



Questions?